

Claims

[claim 1] A method of treating cells comprising the steps of:
removing mucus from a specimen containing cells and the mucus; and
after the removing step, treating the specimen with a solution containing an
aldehyde compound to stabilize the cells.

[claim 2] The method of treating cells according to claim 1, further
comprising the step of treating the specimen with a protease after
stabilizing cells in the specimen.

[claim 3] The method of treating cells according to claim 1, wherein
said removing step is conducted by treating the specimen with a solution
containing cysteine and/or a compound derived therefrom.

[claim 4] A method of treating cells comprising the steps of:
treating a specimen containing cells with a solution containing an aldehyde
compound to stabilize the cells; and
treating the specimen with a protease after stabilizing cells in the specimen.

[claim 5] The method of treating cells according to claim 4, wherein
the cells comprise cells adhered to by mucus.

[claim 6] The method of treating cells according to claim 1, wherein
the cells comprise a uterin cervix cell.

[claim 7] The method of treating cells according to claim 5, wherein
the cells comprise a uterin cervix cell.

[claim 8] The method of treating cells according to claim 1, wherein
the cells comprise a cell preserved in an alcohol solution.

[claim 9] The method of treating cells according to claim 4, wherein
the cells comprise a cell preserved in an alcohol solution.

[claim 10] The method of treating cells according to claim 1, wherein the aldehyde compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of paraformaldehyde, formaldehyde, and glutaraldehyde.

[claim 11] The method of treating cells according to claim 4, wherein the aldehyde compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of paraformaldehyde, formaldehyde, and glutaraldehyde.

[claim 12] The method of treating cells according to claim 2, wherein the protease is collagenase.

[claim 13] The method of treating cells according to claim 4, wherein the protease is collagenase.

[claim 14] A method of preparing a sample for flow cytometry comprising a step of preparing a sample for flow cytometry after conducting the method of treating cells according to claim 2.

[claim 15] A method of preparing a sample for flow cytometry comprising a step of preparing a sample for flow cytometry after conducting the method of treating cells according to claim 4.

[claim 16] A reagent kit of treating a specimen containing cells and mucus comprising:

a first reagent containing cysteine and/or a compound derived therefrom;

and

a second reagent containing an aldehyde compound.

[claim 17] The kit according to claim 16, further comprising a third reagent containing a protease.

[claim 18] A reagent kit of treating a specimen containing cells and mucus comprising:

a first reagent containing cysteine and/or a compound derived therefrom;
and

a second reagent containing a protease.

[claim 19] The kit according to claim 17, wherein the protease is collagenase and the concentration of the collagenase falls in the range of 0.1 to 0.5 mass%.

[claim 20] The kit according to claim 18, wherein the protease is collagenase and the concentration of the collagenase falls in the range of 0.1 to 0.5 mass%.

[claim 21] The kit according to claim 16, wherein the aldehyde compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of paraformaldehyde, formaldehyde, and gultalaldehyde.

[claim 22] The kit according to claim 18, wherein the aldehyde compound is at least one selected from the group consisting of paraformaldehyde, formaldehyde, and gultalaldehyde.